

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1-35. Canceled

36. (Currently Amended) A container having a longitudinal axis, an upper portion having an opening into the container, a body portion extending from the upper portion to a lower portion, the lower portion including a base, the base closing off an end of the container, the container having at least one substantially transversely oriented pressure panel located in the lower portion, the pressure panel comprising a portion being inclined at an angle of more than 10° relative to a plane orthogonal to the longitudinal axis and the pressure panel portion being configured to be capable of folding from the inclined position to an inverted position to change an internal volume within the container, wherein the pressure panel is connected with a lower portion of a sidewall of the container by a decoupling or hinge structure, the sidewall extending from the lower portion of the container to a neck that defines said opening.

37. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 36, wherein said portion that is inclined is inclined at an angle of between approximately 30° and approximately 45°.

38. (Currently Amended) A container according to claim 36, wherein said inclined portion is inwardly inclined relative to an interior portion of the container and configured to be capable of folding from the inwardly inclined position to the inverted ~~an inverted~~ position to increase the internal volume within the container.

39. (Currently Amended) A container according to claim 36, wherein said inclined portion is outwardly inclined relative to an interior portion of the container and configured to be capable of folding from the outwardly inclined position to the inverted ~~an inverted~~ position to reduce the internal volume within the container.

40. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 36, wherein the pressure panel comprises an initiator portion and a control portion, the initiator portion having less resistance to pressure folding forces and configured to provide for folding of the control portion.

41. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 40, wherein said inclined portion is outwardly inclined relative to an interior portion of the container and the initiator portion is configured to cause the control portion to invert and flex further inwardly into the container.

42. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 40, wherein the initiator portion is located adjacent to a widest periphery of the pressure panel.

43. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 40, wherein said inclined portion is the control portion.

44. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 40, wherein the initiator portion is inclined at an angle that is substantially the same as or less than that of the control portion.

45. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 42, wherein said inclined portion is outwardly inclined relative to an interior portion of the container and the initiator portion is outwardly inclined relative to an interior portion of the container at an angle to said orthogonal plane that is at least 10° less than the control portion.

46. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 45, wherein the control portion is outwardly inclined relative to an interior portion of the container at an angle of between approximately 30° and 45°.

47. (Currently Amended) A container according to claim 36, wherein the pressure panel is capable of folding from the inclined position to the inverted ~~an inverted~~ position to compensate for a change of pressure induced in the container.

48. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 47, wherein the pressure panel provides compensation for reduced pressure induced within the container, in use, such that less force is exerted on walls of the container.

49. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 48, wherein the reduced pressure is induced by the cooling of a heated liquid within the container.

50. (Previously Presented) A container according to or claim 49, wherein the compensation is such that there is substantially no reduced pressure within the container.

51. (Currently Amended) A container according to claim 47, wherein the pressure panel is configured to be capable of folding from the inverted ~~an inverted~~ position to the inclined position to compensate for an increase in pressure induced in the container.

52. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 51, wherein the pressure panel is configured so that in use the pressure panel provides compensation for increased pressure induced within the container following heating of a liquid within the container.

53. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 36, wherein the pressure panel is configured to resist being expanded from the inverted position.

54. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 36, wherein the pressure panel is configured to invert longitudinally under an externally applied mechanical force.

55. (Currently Amended) A container according to claim 36, wherein the pressure panel is of varied width and inverts from a ~~widest~~ portion of the pressure panel furthest from the longitudinal axis to a ~~narrowest~~ portion of the pressure panel nearest the longitudinal axis.

56. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 36, wherein the pressure panel is configured to cause the base to retract longitudinally further into the body portion.

57. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 56, wherein the pressure panel is configured to cause a lowest portion of the base to be replaced as the structure providing a standing support for the container.

58. (Currently Amended) A container according to claim 36, wherein the container includes a standing support connected with the base, the standing support providing a substantially flat rigid surface, and wherein its container the container structure is configured such that in use a top load applied to the container is transferred from the base to the standing support ~~a portion of a sidewall of the container~~.

59. (Canceled).

60. (Currently Amended) A container according to claim 36, wherein the inclined portion of the pressure panel includes outwardly projecting portions.

61. (Currently Amended) A container according to claim 36, wherein the inclined portion of the pressure panel includes inwardly projecting portions.

62. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 36, wherein the base further includes a substantially centrally located inwardly projecting portion joined adjacent to an inside border of the pressure panel and closing off a bottom of the container.

63. (Currently Amended) A container according to claim 62, wherein the ~~upwardly-inwardly~~ projecting portion is configured to move upwardly when the pressure panel inverts.

64. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 36, wherein the pressure panel is in the base.

65. (Currently Amended) A container according to claim 36, wherein the inclined portion of the pressure panel includes a plurality of flutes forming a conical area in the base.

66. (Currently Amended) A container according to claim 36, further including a standing ring surrounding the pressure panel for providing container stability when the pressure panel is in the inverted ~~an inverted~~ position.

67. (Currently Amended) A container according to claim 66 and further including a recessed instep adjacent to an inside border of the standing ring, the instep surrounding the pressure panel portion and ~~being displaced higher positioning the~~ pressure panel further within the container ~~than an upper border of the pressure panel~~.

68. (Currently Amended) A container according to claim 67, ~~further including a wherein the decoupling or hinge structure connects connecting an adjacent widest border of the pressure panel portion with the instep, the decoupling structure providing for greater inward and upward longitudinal movement of the pressure panel.~~

69. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 68 wherein the decoupling structure is relatively flat when compared to a side wall of the container.

70. (Currently Amended) A container according to claim 68 wherein the decoupling structure is relatively non-ribbed, and separates ~~the widest border of the~~ pressure panel from the recessed instep.

71. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 36, wherein the pressure panel has no strengthening ribs to restrain substantial longitudinal movement and inversion.

72. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 36, wherein:
the container includes a standing ring which defines a support surface upon which the container is supported,
the base includes a central portion,
the pressure panel circumscribes the central portion and defines an inwardly inclined shaped portion when the container is filled and sealed, the inwardly inclined shaped portion defined by a surface which is sloped toward the longitudinal axis of the container at an angle of more than about 10° relative to the support surface, and
the central portion and the pressure panel portion are configured to be moveable to accommodate vacuum forces generated within the container.

73. (Currently Amended) A plastic container, including: a closed base connecting with a standing support that provides a substantially flat rigid surface, the base including a central annular flexible portion that has a portion inclined at an angle of more than 10° relative to a plane orthogonal to a longitudinal axis of the container and that is configured to flex from a convex to a concave configuration relative to a support surface; a body portion extending above the base, the body portion including a wall portion and a neck portion extending above the body portion, the neck portion including a dispensing opening; wherein a transition between the standing support and the central flexible portion is configured to be permitted to flex, and the central flexible portion is configured to contract upwardly relative to the standing support in response to a vacuum generated within the container and the wall portion is configured to remain substantially unchanged, wherein the central flexible portion is connected with the standing support by a decoupling or hinge structure.

74-80. Canceled.

81. (New) A plastic container according to claim 73, comprising a recessed instep adjacent to an inside border of the standing ring, the instep surrounding the central flexible portion.

82. (New) A plastic container according to claim 81, wherein the instep is connected to the central flexible portion by the decoupling or hinge structure.

83. (New) A container having a longitudinal axis, an upper portion having an opening into the container, a body portion extending from the upper portion to a lower portion, the lower portion including a base, the base closing off an end of the container, the container having at least one substantially transversely oriented pressure panel located in the lower portion, the pressure panel comprising a portion being inclined at an angle of more than 10° relative to a plane orthogonal to the longitudinal axis and the

pressure panel portion being configured to be capable of folding from the inclined position to an inverted position to change an internal volume within the container,

wherein the pressure panel comprises an initiator portion and a control portion, the initiator portion having less resistance to pressure folding forces and configured to provide for folding of the control portion,

wherein the initiator portion is located adjacent to a portion of the pressure panel furthest from the longitudinal axis,

wherein said inclined portion is outwardly inclined relative to an interior portion of the container and the initiator portion is outwardly inclined relative to an interior portion of the container at an angle to said orthogonal plane that is at least 10° less than the control portion.

84. (New) A container according to claim 83, the control portion is outwardly inclined relative to an interior portion of the container at an angle of between approximately 30° and 45° .

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